

REMARKS

Claim 7 is amended herein. Claims 21 and 23 are cancelled herein without prejudice.

The applicant reserves the right to present claims 21 and 23 in a divisional application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14, 22, 24-30 and 33-35 are pending in this application and presented for reconsideration.

The undersigned attorney of record takes this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview commenced on April 2, 2009.

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In view of the discussion set forth in the telephone interview and the comments provided below in connection with the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, it is submitted that the specification as originally filed, particularly the drawings, provides proper support for the claimed subject matter and, accordingly, it is requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the inner ceiling surface of said first component member". Claim 7 has been amended to change "the inner ceiling surface ..." to "an inner ceiling surface ..." thereby providing the proper antecedent support. It is requested that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 11-14, 22, 24-30 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement (it is noted that claims 2-5 were previously cancelled). In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is no support in the disclosure as originally filed for the limitations (in claims 1 and 24) of at least one of the threads

of said second component member “uniformly” extending along its length at a second lead angle such that the length extending at the second lead angle is “free of any portion extending therefrom at an angle different” from the second lead angle (final Office Action, par. 3).

In response to the Examiner’s assertion, it is respectfully submitted that the application as originally filed provides support for the above-identified limitations. In particular, and as discussed during the telephone interview, Figure 1A of the drawings shows (on the bottom half of the figure) four threads 12, 14, 16 and 18, wherein three of these threads (i.e., threads 14, 16 and 18) are fully and completely shown. In connection with the recited claim limitations, the second component (shown in the lower half of Figure 1A) includes threads extending along a “first lead angle”, shown as threads 10 and 16 in Figure 1A (with the lead angle of 20 degrees), and also includes at least one thread that extends at a second lead angle, shown as either thread 14 or 18 in Figure 1A (with the lead angle of 18.5 degrees). As clearly shown in Figure 1A, threads 14 and 18 uniformly extend along their length at such lead angle of 18.5 degrees (see dashed line in Figure 1A illustrating uniform extension of the threads along their entire length). Moreover, as also clearly shown in Figure 1A, the entire portion of threads 14 and 18 (and nothing more, including anything that extends from it) extends at such lead angle of 18.5 degrees, hence providing complete support for the particular language in the claim. It is noted that while the claim limitations utilize particular words that may not be employed in the application as originally word, the application (i.e., at least Figure 1A) clearly provides support for the limitations.

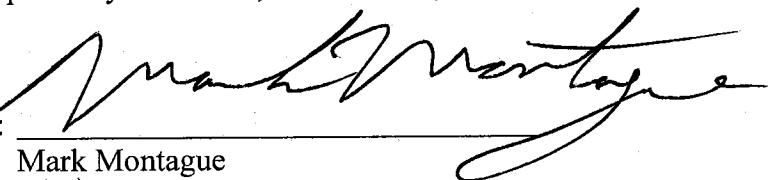
Moreover, and equally important, the Examiner during the telephone interview indicated that the application stated that Figure 1A is a “partial plan view” ... (see par. 0024) and then indicated that such language is suggestive that only a portion of the threads are shown. Applicant acknowledges that if it was true that only a portion of the threads were shown in the

figures, it would be unclear as to whether the disclosed threads, or at least those shown in Figure 1A, provides support for the limitations added to the claims. However, it is submitted that the lower half of Figure 1A clearly shows the entire portion of threads 14, 16 and 18 since those threads fully appear within a rectangular (with slightly curved side ends) that clearly delineates what is disclosed (i.e., everything inside the rectangle) and what is not disclosed (i.e., everything outside the rectangle). By reason of such a rectangle and what it represents, the figure is only a partial view, but nevertheless threads 14 and 18 (corresponding to the threads having the added limitations discussed above) are fully shown to extend uniformly along their entire length at the lead angle of 18.5 degrees and those threads are free of any portion that extends at a different angle. Hence, at least Figure 1A of the drawings of the application as originally filed provides full support for the added limitations.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the rejection of claims 1, 6-7, 11-14, 22, 24-30 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Examiner indicated that the claims appeared to overcome the art of record. In view of the above discussion and amendment to claim 7, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 6-7, 11-14, 22, 24-30 and 33-35 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Mark Montague
Reg. No. 36,612

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P.C
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-6799
(212) 790-9200